

It's A Great Day To Be A TIGER!

As we come to the end of the 2013-14 school year, I want to thank each and every one of you for all we've accomplished as a district. When I look back over the past year, I see the talent and dedication of our teachers and staff reflected in every student at Broken Arrow Public Schools.

Throughout the year, many of our educators received prestigious awards reflective of their dedication to our students. Others acquired grants to fund activities and take learning in their classrooms to the next level. Each day, teachers work tirelessly to help students overcome challenges, reach milestones and, at the end of the year, move on to the next phase of their education.

In March, 200 BAPS employees rallied at the State Capitol in support of public education. Throughout the year, many of you wrote, called and spoke with your state legislators about proposed laws that could affect our schools. While there have been many frustrations over the past year, there have also been some victories such as with HB 2625 this past week. I know I can count on you to keep working together to make a positive impact on common education in Oklahoma.

Throughout the district, we continue to see progress through our many capital projects, all of which help us provide facilities that are safe as well as conducive to learning and student engagement. With these projects, thousands of students, teachers and staff will move to new locations, a dynamic process that will continue over the summer months. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our operations staff.

Last week, we watched the Class of 2014 walk across the stage at the BOK Center, an undertaking made possible by dozens of district employees. Of the many accomplishments of this class, one of which I am particularly proud is the record \$6.1 million in scholarships garnered by our graduates. Their success is due not only to the teachers and staff at the high school but also to the countless individuals who touched their lives throughout their time at BAPS.

Each success story over the past year occurred because of you. The roles each of you played may have varied but one thing remained constant: you are essential to the success of our students. Don't ever doubt the impact you have each and every day on the young people who attend our schools.

As I complete my fourth year here as superintendent in Broken Arrow, I am extremely proud of how far we have come, and I cannot wait to see where we will go. It has been a great year to be a Tiger thanks to each of you. Have a great summer!



Jarod Mendenhall
Jarod Mendenhall, Ed.D.
Superintendent

FEATURE

Technology Tuesdays teaches basic digital tools

Broken Arrow Public Schools strives to provide teachers and students with state-of-the-art technology to generate an interactive classroom that promotes engaging curriculum and increased student achievement. Because of the number of new technologies implemented over the past few years, BAPS is offering free summer classes, dubbed Technology Tuesdays, to teach the basics of the digital tools currently available to staff. The trainings will be held at Central on Main and are scheduled for June 10, June 17, June 24, August 5 and August 12.

"As a district, we are proud to offer our teachers and students user-friendly, readily available technology tools," said Kim Vento, BAPS assistant director of instructional technology integration and Technology Tuesdays instructor. "By utilizing new technologies like Safari Montage, eBackpack and Schoolnet, teachers transform their classrooms into a 21st Century way of teaching and learning. The benefits of this technology will follow students as they move on to the next chapter of their lives."

Classes include Schoolnet Classroom Resources for Teachers; Website Workshop for Teachers; SMART board for Beginners; SMART board-Building Interactive Lessons; eBackpack-Basics and Beyond; Safari Montage-Basic Dashboard Navigation and Digital Lesson Building; iPad Apps for Pre-K - Grade 2; iPad Apps for Grades 3 - 5; and Aimsweb Reports-Data Based Decision Making.

Please [click here](#) to see a detailed description about each class as well as a schedule of dates and times.

"Technology Tuesdays are conducted in a relaxed environment that will allow participants to walk away with solid ideas about how to use technology in their classrooms," said Beth Johnson, BAPS Schoolnet coordinator and Technology Tuesdays instructor. "As Broken Arrow Public Schools teaches our students to be college and career ready, integrating technology is a must. There isn't a better way to learn those technology skills than with dynamic instructors who are passionate about learning right alongside you."

Space is limited to 24 participants. Sign up for all classes on My Learning Plan at <http://mylearningplan.com>. If you are new to the district, please sign up by contacting Cynde Wallace at 918-259-5700. For all other inquiries, please contact Beth Johnson at bjohnson@baschools.org or 918-259-7720. If less than five people sign up for each class, the instructor will contact you via email to let you know class is canceled.

"The district's challenge is to bring these technology resources to our staff and students without overwhelming them with their already full schedule and fast paced environment," Vento said. "Our hope is that these tools, as they are implemented in phases to our district, will modernize our classrooms."



Professional Development Corner

The "Anatomy of a Lesson" is an important component taught in Literacy First Training to ensure instruction is targeted and meaningful. The lesson concept begins with Activating Relevant Knowledge (ARK) in which the teacher prepares the child by allowing them to make connections to the new content with prior knowledge. This could simply be in the form of asking questions. Next, the teacher provides information and models how the student can manipulate the content. This is called Teacher Input (TIP). Then, the teacher requires Student Active Participation (SAP). New learning occurs as students are asked to work with the content independently. Lastly, success of the lesson is evaluated by Identifying Student Success (ISS). It is the final check to determine that learning took place and can be easily done by asking for student reflection.